

# Harlan County Lake

## Lakebed Recreational Access



### Information for:

#### Permitted Vehicles

#### Authorized Operation Areas

#### Rules and Regulations

Valid 1-Oct-2014

All Previous Versions Obsolete

Map and Pamphlet are subject to change

### OVERVIEW

This pamphlet and map provide information for vehicle operation on the exposed lakebed of Harlan County Lake. Information found within includes -

1. Permitted Vehicles
2. Authorized Operation Areas
3. Rules and Regulations for the exposed lakebed.

Other shoreline use questions may be answered by contacting the Corps of Engineers office at 308-799-2105.

### BACKGROUND

Historically, Harlan County Lake has been subject to drawdown which can expose areas of the lakebed. During these low water conditions Corps policy has allowed for some operation of motor vehicles in designated areas to provide recreational benefits.

The most recent drawdown event occurred from 2002 to 2007. During that time the Lake was approximately ½ its total capacity exposing nearly 5000 acres of lake bottom. Since lake levels returned to normal in 2008 vehicle operation below full pool has been prohibited.

### CURRENT POLICY

In 2013 the Corps of Engineers reviewed lake conditions and determined that limited vehicle access will be permitted on the exposed lakebed below full pool subject to Title 36 of the code of federal regulations and under the following conditions.

## Emergencies Call 911

### 1. PERMITTED VEHICLE ACCESS PERIODS

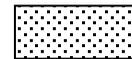
From **February 15 thru September 14** only registered motor vehicles are permitted in the authorized areas of the exposed lakebed and are subject to Title 36 Regulation.

All terrain vehicles, off highway vehicles, or unlicensed vehicles are strictly prohibited during this period.

From **September 15 thru February 14** unlicensed vehicles are allowed in the authorized areas of the exposed lakebed **for fishing and hunting purposes ONLY**. Indiscriminate driving is strictly prohibited and subject to Title 36 enforcement.

### 2. AUTHORIZED OPERATION AREAS

The attached map details those locations where permitted vehicles may operate and access the exposed lakebed. These authorized areas and access points were chosen to provide the recreating public the experience for fishing, sightseeing, and other recreational opportunities.



#### Open to Lakebed Recreation Access

- Areas Denoted with the dotted pattern are open for recreational access.



#### Open - Adjacent Park Rules Apply

- Areas in cross hatch on the map represent a temporary extension of adjoining park areas. All park regulations such as speed limit, quiet hours, etc, apply.



#### Access Points

- Access Points into open areas are denoted as letters within a circle. (A-K)



#### Closed to Lakebed Recreation Access

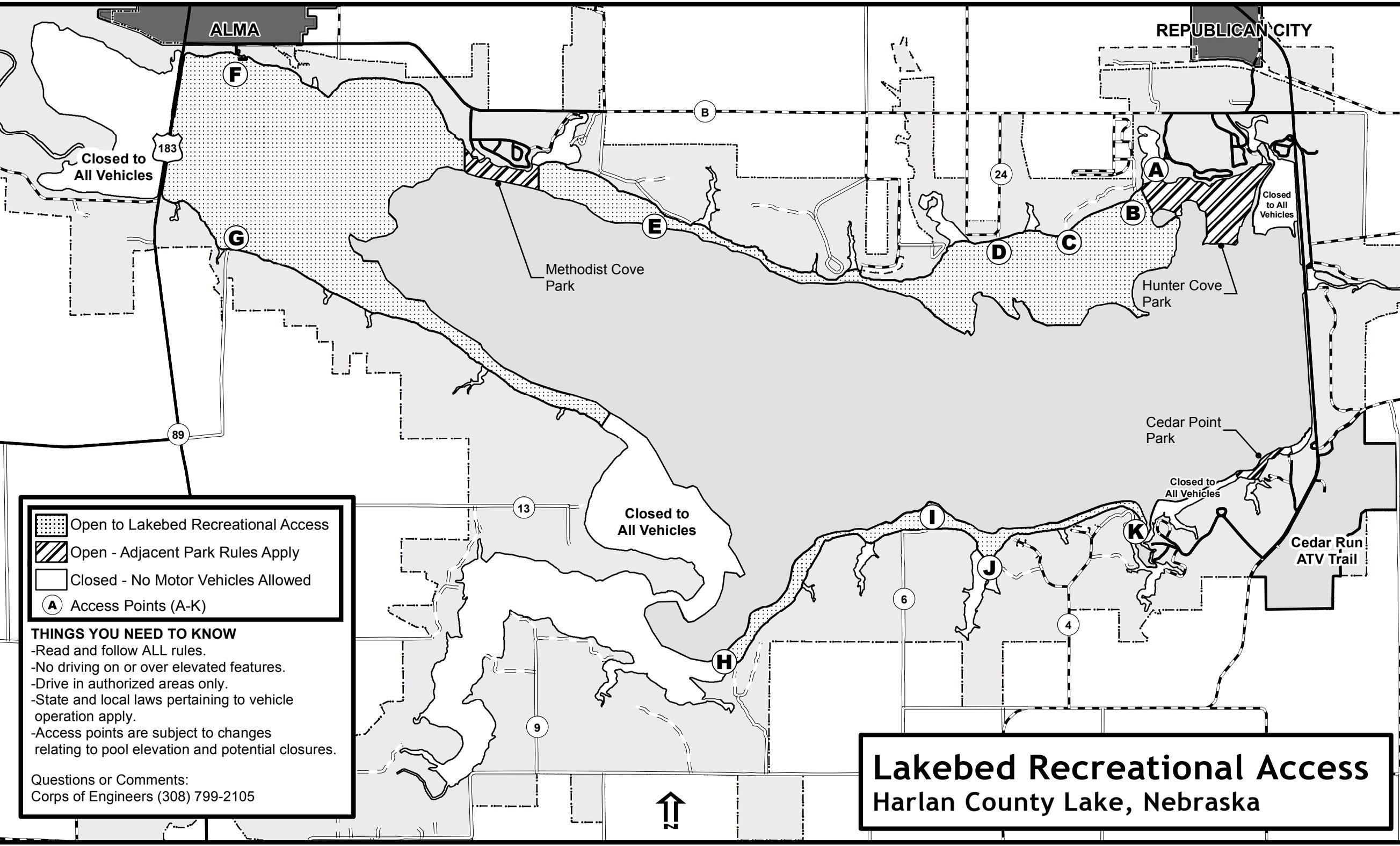
- The areas in white are closed to protect natural resource areas, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.

### 3. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Absolutely no driving or climbing of vertical features in the lakebed or along the exposed shoreline. *This includes all cut banks.*
- No driving on or crossing improvements or structures such as jetties, breakwaters, fish structures, or foundations.
- All operators are subject to State and Local laws. This includes all penalties for alcohol or impaired drivers through the use of any legal or illegal drug or substance.
- This is a temporary authority and is valid thru September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Operators riding outside this period without further policy guidance will be fined accordingly.
- All rules are subject to change.
- Operators who become stuck or immobile are responsible for removing their vehicle within 24 hours. Vehicles left longer than 24 hours may be subject to impoundment and fees.
- All terrain vehicles are only permitted in the Cedar Run ATV Park unless operating on the exposed lakebed for hunting or fishing purposes during the September 15 thru February 14 period. Operators of an unauthorized vehicle on the exposed lakebed will be subject to citation.

Operators should be aware of poor driving conditions. Metal, concrete, woody debris, soft driving surfaces, and other hazards may be present on the lakebed.

Driving on the exposed lakebed is considered a privilege. Driving in an unauthorized area will eliminate this privilege and violators will be fined accordingly.



-  Open to Lakebed Recreational Access
-  Open - Adjacent Park Rules Apply
-  Closed - No Motor Vehicles Allowed
-  Access Points (A-K)

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Read and follow ALL rules.
- No driving on or over elevated features.
- Drive in authorized areas only.
- State and local laws pertaining to vehicle operation apply.
- Access points are subject to changes relating to pool elevation and potential closures.

Questions or Comments:  
Corps of Engineers (308) 799-2105

**Lakebed Recreational Access**  
**Harlan County Lake, Nebraska**

